

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Categorical Exclusion Not Established by Statute
DOI-BLM-UT-W010-2016-0005-CX

Onaqui Herd Management Area Informational Signs

April 2016

Location: Township 6 South to 10 South, Range 6 West to 9 West, Various Sections,
Tooele County, Utah

Applicant/Address: Not Applicable

Salt Lake Field Office
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Salt Lake Field Office



CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION NOT ESTABLISHED BY STATUTE

A. Background

Office: Salt Lake Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No: NA

Proposed Action Title: Onaqui Herd Management Area Informational Signs

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-UT-W010-2016-0005-CX

Location of Proposed Action: Townships 6-10 South and Range 6-9 West, in Tooele County, Utah (Map, Attachment 1).

Description of Proposed Action: The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Salt Lake Field Office (SLFO) proposes to install three (3) signs on the public access points going to the Onaqui Herd Management Area (HMA) and one (1) pullout area. At present, 3 locations have been identified and are illustrated on the attached map. The signs would be installed adjacent to existing roads. The sign that is on the eastern side of the HMA (Lookout Pass location) would need a small pullout area created when the sign is installed to allow vehicles to safely pull off the road.

Over the years there has been an increase in the number of visitors going to the HMA to see the horses and take pictures of them. With this increase, the wild horses have become accustomed to the visitors and are now letting the visitors get very close, this can be a safety concern for both the public and wild horses. The signs are designed to educate and inform the public about the wild horses out on the HMA, their management and the Wild Horse and Burro Program.

These signs and pullout area would be installed and constructed by contract or SLFO personnel. Maintenance activities would be conducted by the SLFO as warranted. Trash and debris generated during sign installation, pullout construction and maintenance activities would be retrieved and disposed of in an appropriate landfill.

The signs would be placed in a "RockArt" single panel kiosk. The signs would be approximately 4 feet wide by 4 feet tall and would be positioned between 2 end posts and stand 8 feet tall when installed. The end posts would be placed into 2, 10-inch diameter form tubes and securely filled with concrete to stabilize each sign. Each hole would disturb an area of 20 inches by 2.5 feet of soil (6 holes x 20 inches = 120 square inches or 0.84 square feet surface area).

The pullout area would disturb up to 300 square feet of surface area (10 feet by 30 feet). This would be placed along the road in an area where the road is straight and provides a good view in both directions. This would ensure that the public would be able to safely pull back out onto the main route.

The following protective measures would be applied:

- SLFO would have a BLM archeologist on site during installation and construction activities. Should subsurface cultural resources be discovered, installation and construction activities would cease and the authorized officer would be contacted.
- To prevent the introduction of invasive species, all earth-moving equipment and hauling equipment should be washed at a designated area prior to entering the site. If any invasive weeds are located on site due to construction activities, the proponent would use BLM approved methods to eradicate them.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Pony Express Resource Management Plan (RMP) (January 1990), as amended, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is consistent with the following RMP decisions and objectives:

- Wild Horse Program, Decision 1 (page 34): BLM will continue to manage the herd size of the Cedar Mountain Wild Horse Unit at 273 animals and the Onaqui Mountain Unit at 159 animals.
- Soil Water and Air Program, Decision 1 (page 30): All actions that would involve soil, water and air resources will continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis...
- Cultural Resources Program, Decision 1 (page 41): Cultural resources will continue to be inventoried and evaluated on a case-by-case basis....

C. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance 516 DM 11.9, G. Transportation 4 (placement of recreational, special designation, or information signs, visitor registers, kiosks, and portable sanitation devices).

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed by an interdisciplinary team (Attachment 2, Categorical Exclusion Review Record), and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR Part 46.215 apply (Attachment 3, Extraordinary Circumstance to Categorical Exclusions).

D: Signature

/s/ Michael Nelson
Salt Lake Field Office Manager

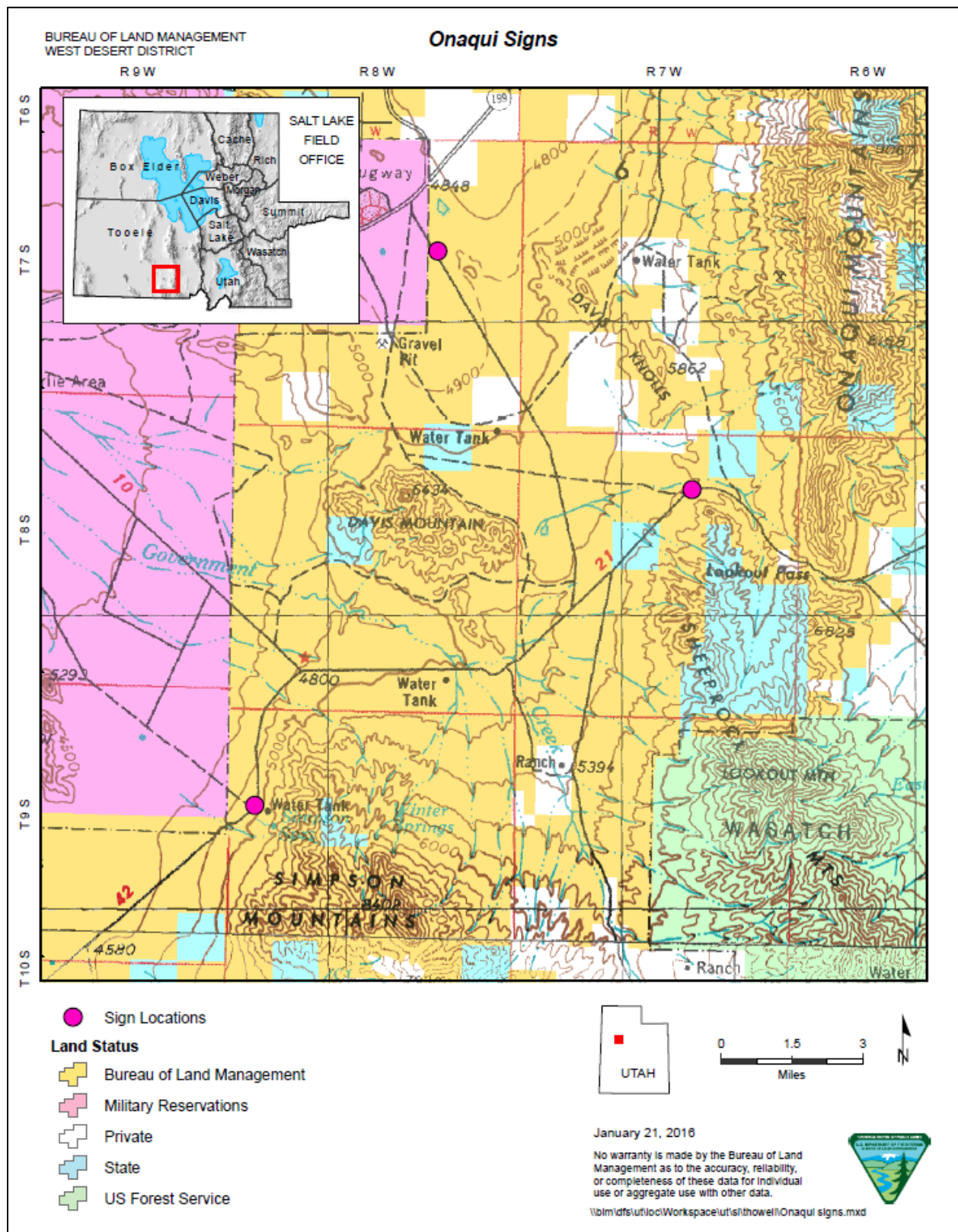
04/13/2016
Date

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:
Tami Howell, BLM-Salt Lake Field Office, 801-977-4359

Attachments

1. Map
2. Categorical Exclusion Review Record
3. Extraordinary Circumstance to Categorical Exclusions

Attachment 1, Map



Attachment 2, Categorical Exclusion Review Record

| Resource | Yes*/No | Assigned Specialist | Date |
|--|---------|---------------------|---------|
| Air Quality | No | Pamela Schuller | 2/2/16 |
| Areas of Critical Environmental Concern | No | Ray Kelsey | 2/9/16 |
| Cultural Resources | No | Glenn Stelter | 2/18/16 |
| Environmental Justice | No | Pamela Schuller | 2/2/16 |
| Farm Lands (prime or unique) | No | Pamela Schuller | 2/2/16 |
| Floodplains | No | Pamela Schuller | 2/2/16 |
| Invasive Species/Noxious Weeds | No | Jerry Bullock | 2/19/16 |
| Lands with Wilderness Character | No | Ray Kelsey | 2/9/16 |
| Migratory Birds | No | Chris Bryan | 2/22/16 |
| National Historic Trails | No | Ray Kelsey | 2/9/16 |
| Native American Religious Concerns | No | Pamela Schuller | 2/9/16 |
| Threatened, Endangered, or Candidate Species | No | Chris Bryan | 2/22/16 |
| Wastes (hazardous or solid) | No | Alan Jones | 2/23/16 |
| Water Quality (drinking/ground) | No | Cassie Mellon | 2/19/16 |
| Wetlands / Riparian Zones | No | Cassie Mellon | 2/19/16 |
| Wild and Scenic Rivers | No | Ray Kelsey | 2/9/16 |
| Wilderness/WSA | No | Ray Kelsey | 2/9/16 |
| Other: Not Applicable | No | Pamela Schuller | 2/23/16 |

*Extraordinary Circumstances apply.

/s/ Pamela Schuller
Environmental Coordinator

04/12/2016
Date

Attachment 3, Extraordinary Circumstance to Categorical Exclusions Exceptions to Categorical Exclusion Documentation

The action has been reviewed to determine if any of the extraordinary circumstances (43 CFR 46.215) apply. The project would:

| Extraordinary Circumstances | | |
|---|---------|--|
| 1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety. | | |
| Yes | No ✓ | Rationale: The content message of the signs was coordinated with the Utah BLM state lead for the Wild Horse and Burro program and the West Desert Public Affairs Officer. The signs provide a safety message which informs the public to keep an appropriate distance from a wild horse. The pullout area is essential for the public to safely pull off the road in order to view the sign. No significant impact to health or safety is expected. |
| 2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. | | |
| Yes | No ✓ | Rationale: The project has been reviewed by the appropriate specialists (Attachment 2). There are no ACECs, WSAs, designated wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, Monuments or other areas with special designations in the project area. There are no floodplains, wetlands, or unique geologic characteristics or any other ecological significant or critical areas. |
| 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102 (2) (E)]. | | |
| Yes | No ✓ | Rationale: Other similar projects to notify the public in the Field Office area have been completed without controversy. This project was posted to the ePlanning NEPA Register on 2/2/2016. Concerns or comments from the public were not brought to the SLFO's attention. |
| 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | | |
| Yes | No ✓ | Rationale: The project will not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects nor involve unique or unknown environmental risks. Installing informational/administrative signs are routine actions on the public lands. Pullout area is a safety precaution. Trash and debris around installation and construction sites would be retrieved and disposed of in an appropriate landfill. Providing additional information on the main access points is an effective tool to inform the public. |
| 5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | | |
| Yes | No ✓ | Rationale: These signs and pullout are similar to other projects that have been authorized on public land. It would not set a precedent nor would it represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. The use administrative signs will assist in providing information to the public |

| Extraordinary Circumstances | | |
|---|---------|---|
| | | and provide for their safety in the area. |
| 6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | | |
| Yes | No ✓ | Rationale: The signs and pullout could cover less than 1 acre, surface area. The project is necessary to manage the public who have come to the area. Thresholds are not expected to be exceeded in the management of the grazing or special status species programs. |
| 7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau. | | |
| Yes | No ✓ | Rationale: The undertaking does not have the potential to effect historic properties. Each hole would disturb an area of 20 inches by 2.5 feet of soil (6 holes x 20 inches = 120 square inches or 0.84 square feet surface area. The pullout area could disturb up to 300 square feet. A qualified archaeologist will be on site during construction/installation activities to ensure that cultural properties are not impacted. Refer also to item 11. |
| 8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species. | | |
| Yes | No ✓ | Rationale: Listed flora or fauna species or their designated critical habitats are not present within or adjacent to the project area. |
| 9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. | | |
| Yes | No ✓ | Rationale: Federal, State, local or tribal laws or requirements for protecting the environment would not be violated with this project. No trees are to be removed. Nesting migrant song or raptor bird species should not be affected. Installation and construction activities would not be done during crucial time periods (e.g. breeding, nesting, fawning/calving or wintering). |
| 10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). | | |
| Yes | No ✓ | Rationale: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and Executive Order 12898 ("Environmental Justice") require federal agencies to identify and address "disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low-income populations." In accordance with CEQ Environmental Justice Guidelines, minority populations should be identified and effects to them analyzed, if either of the following two conditions apply: (1) of those likely to be affected by the Proposed Action, 50% or more would be part of the minority populations, and (2) within the project area, the minority population percentage is greater than the minority population percentage outside the project area or in the general population. Neither of these conditions applies to the project area for this effort. Therefore, implementation and potential environmental consequences of the action considered would not |

| Extraordinary Circumstances | | |
|---|---------|--|
| | | disproportionately affect any specific group of people (including any racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group). |
| 11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007). | | |
| Yes | No ✓ | Rationale: The project is not expected to limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. There are no known ceremonial lands or sacred sites within the proposed project area. |
| 12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112). | | |
| Yes | No ✓ | Rationale: While installing an administrative sign may cause some surface disturbances, the project as a whole is not expected to cause the establishment of invasive or noxious weeds in the area. The construction areas would be monitored for noxious weeds by the SLFO. Should noxious weeds appear on these areas, the SLFO would implement appropriate control measures consistent with the requirements contained in Appendix B, Herbicide Use Standard Operating Procedures of the Record of Decision for the Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (September 2007) and the Decision Record for the Salt Lake District Weed Management Plan environmental assessment (UT-020-96-24). A pesticide use proposal would be submitted and approved by the UTSO prior to any herbicide applications. |